If evil companions can lead astray those who have had the opportunity of profiting by years of teaching, experience, failure, and suffering, how much more then will your children, simple, untaught, and inexperienced as they are in wrong doing and its consequences, inevitably be corrupted if you foolishly permit them to associate with children who are evil and corrupt? Do not allow the devil, or anyone else, to deceive you on this head. *If you permit the means of corruption to be employed, nothing can prevent the natural result. It is as certain as anything very well can be.*

What course do parents ordinarily take to discover the moral character of the companions of their children? I am afraid they have little concern, if any at all, about the moral and spiritual character of their children's companions. In many instances they are quite satisfied if these belong to families of their own standing, and if there is no particular stain upon their character—and even concerning this they will not put themselves out of the way to enquire. Other parents will allow their children to pick out their companions themselves, or at most get up an acquaintance with the children of neighbours. In view of this, and what we have said in answer to the last question, is it not strange that anyone should wonder where the bad qualities come from, which are unexpectedly developed in their children?

If those parents knew that their children had been associating with some of their school-fellows who had just recovered from small-pox, or some contagious malady, they would not be in the least surprised to see symptoms of the same disease show themselves. Indeed, they would be much astonished if such manifestations did not appear. Why, then, should parents be amazed when their children grow up to lie, deceive, teach, and practice all manner of uncleanness, when they, the parents, have allowed them to associate with others who regularly do these things?

But how are parents to know the real character of those whom they allow to be companions with their children?

They must be at THE TROUBLE to ascertain it. As we have already recommended with regard to servants, *enquire for yourselves*. Watch them with your own eyes and ears—examine your children about any new playmates and comrades that may have turned up, before there has been time for any harm to be done by their influence or example. Do not be taken off your guard by being informed that the new-comers are religious, or that they "love Jesus." What you want to know is whether they are PURE, TRUE, and obedient.

Some children, as well as grown-up people, are possessed nowadays with the false and dangerous notion that if they hold certain opinions and believe certain statements in the Bible, moral character—that is, truth and goodness—are not of too much importance. But this must not satisfy you. You want faith *and* works. Faith *without* works, whether in children or grown-up people, will be held by you, we suppose, in about the same estimation as it was by the Apostle James, who pronounced it "dead." We all know something of the uselessness and corruption of death.—From *The Training of Children*, by the General of the Salvation Army.

VERA.

OUR WORK.

The House of Education.—" I have found no difficulty *re* the social status of my lady nurse. She has her breakfast and lunch with us and the children. We often have afternoon tea with the children, and if our dinner hour fits in with the discharge of her duties in putting the children to bed, and we are alone, or have anyone to whom she is likely to be interesting, or to take any pleasure in, she is invited. There should be no difficulty in any well-ordered household; a pleasant, well-mannered young girl is always an acquisition, provided she has sufficient common sense not to be over-sensitive and exacting." We insert this extract from a letter, as it serves to show the social status *Tante* must occupy, that is, that of a governess. We are glad to tell our readers that the students who enter on training on the 13th inst. are precisely such as should prove "acquisitions" in any household. But we want many more to meet the demand upon us. Will any more earnest-minded, "pleasant, well-mannered" young women join us? We can promise them most useful, and, we think, happy careers, and they will not lose caste. Or, will any who would prefer to teach older children come to us to be trained for governesses? Or, will any come for training with a view to a woman's proper future?*

The Parents' Review School.—The pupils of the *Parents' Review* School (ages varying from five to eighteen) have come to the end of their first term's work, and have shown happy results in their first examination. The school is accomplishing all we looked for; it is giving impetus and eager interest to the home-teaching, which is sometimes very apt to flag, and it is gratifying to find that governesses throw themselves into the scheme as heartily as do mothers. The interest of prescribed work on somewhat new lines seems to be refreshing to both teachers and taught. The new term begins on January 13th. We hope many new families will join us.*

Parents' Review Students.—The Hon. Sec. for the Belgrave and Westminster Branch of the P.N.E.U. writes:—" Mr. Ellison" (who presided at the meeting of the branch on Dec. 10th) "read from the *Parents' Review*, which he held in his hand, your plans for the next year. The one for the three years' course of study on education seemed to be much appreciated. Two or three friends of mine say it is *just* what they need, and we are much looking forward to it." We hope many mothers will take up this study.

The Parents' Review.—We are grateful to those friends who have heeded our request, and have subscribed a guinea for three copies. We have further need of help. We must have at least 500 more subscribers, a number most easily attained if *all* our friends will help; but the need for help is very urgent. The Editor will be happy to forward ten copies of the prospectus for our new volume to all friends who will be good enough to distribute them carefully, with letters from themselves.

* Write to Editor, "House of Education," Ambleside.